

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks Examiner Bernatz for the helpful suggestions in the message of November 9, 2006, in response to the previous message of the undersigned to the Examiner inquiring if the amendment of claim 1 reciting “said ferromagnetic portion comprises more than zero and less than 5 atomic percent Cr” would overcome the pending rejection of claim 1. The Examiner said that the present amendment would overcome the pending rejection of claim 1, but the Examiner would need to undertake additional review of the prior art. The Examiner also said that the amendment of claim 1 definitely raises new issues and suggested that Applicant should file an RCE.

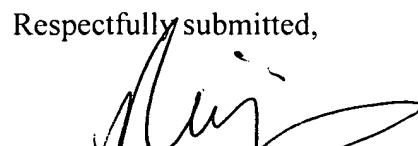
Claims 1, 2, 5-9 and 21 were rejected as being anticipated by Kikitsu.

The Examiner’s position is that the limitation “said portion comprises less than 5 atomic percent Cr” reads on zero atomic Cr in Example 1 of Kikitsu. While the Examiner is technically correct, Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the specification, the limitation “said portion comprises less than 5 atomic percent Cr” was intended to mean that said portion contains Cr, but in an amount less than 5 atomic percent. In any case, claim 1 has been amended to clearly recite that “said [ferromagnetic] portion comprises Cr.” On the other hand, as stated by the Examiner, Kikitsu discloses that the ferromagnetic portion contains no Cr. Thus, claim 1 should now be allowable.

The remaining non-withdrawn claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Thus, all of the pending non-withdrawn claims should now be allowable.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712003900.

Respectfully submitted,


Raj S. Davé
Registration No. 42,465
Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102
Phone: (703) 760-7755

Dated: November 30, 2006